

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 18:09:55 1995  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 95 11:50:13 PST  
From: dh@deneb.csustan.edu (Doug Hendricks)  
Message-Id: <9501081950.AA06647@deneb.csustan.edu>  
Subject: Another Epiphyte Lives

Another Epiphyte Lives!!!!!!!

Vern Wright, W6MMA, of Placerville, CA has his Epiphyte on the air!!! He called me this morning to report that it works like a charm, and he is making contacts everywhere with it. The caveat here is that Vern has a better antenna system than most of us. He has 4 phased verticals on 75 that he calls a four square. He gets about 6 dB of gain from the system.

Vern bought one of the Epiphyte kits that I put together (no I don't have any more, but in the current issue of Sprat, there is an offer of kits of parts for the Epiphyte from: JAB Electronic Components, The Industrial Estate, Rear of Queslett Motors, 1180 Aldridge Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, England B44 8PB. Telephone 021-366-6928. No price given.) Could someone in the U.K. give this number a call and post the details of the kit to the net????

The Epiphyte that Vern built is mounted in a Sierra case, with the matching 5 Watt Amplifier by VE7QK, and the VFO by KI6DS (with tons of help from others). He purchased the boards from Far Circuits for the amp and vfo, they are \$5 each plus \$1.50 shipping. Now, he has a SSB rig on 75 meters that covers 3775 to 3865. He mounted the exciter board on one side of the case and the vfo board behind the variable capacitor. The amp is mounted on the rear panel.

Vern is not on the internet, but he did give Derry Spittle a call and had him walk him through the final tune up of the rig. He reported no problems at all, the rig came right up. He has it on the air today and says that he loves the reaction when he says, "by the way the rig here is an Epiphyte". Of course, none of the QRO types know what an Epiphyte is and they have to ask. Then he gets to tell them that it is homebrew, 5 watts, and HE BUILT IT himself. The only trouble that Vern has is that then he can't get away, as they have tons of questions.

How about the rest of the guys who bought the Epiphyte kits? Do any of you have yours on the air? Inquiring minds want to know.

Oh yes, just as a teaser. I have 2 more versions of SSB rigs from the same club that spawned the Epiphyte. Bruce, VE7ZM has a design that uses a 9 MHz filter (NorCal has 50 of these). It is called the "California" board. And some of you may remember in QST in the December 1991 issue, there was a picture of a tiny SSB transceiver that was built in a cigarette package (flip top box) called the Neomyte. Joe, VE7TX, has given me the details on that one. Both rigs will be in the March issue of QRPP, and yes Brad and Gary,

there will be artwork published so that you can make your own boards!!

SSB is coming like gangbusters to QRP. More and more material is surfacing. We just have to get it published and out to the masses. Have a good week and see you in the ARCI contest on the 15th.

72, Doug

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 13:28:39 1995  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 09:32:23 -0700  
Message-Id: <199501081632.JAA02659@news.primenet.com>  
From: aa7qy@PrimeNet.Com (Roger Hightower)  
Subject: CMOS superkey II battery power

I've had a couple in inquiries about the single battery I use in my superkeyer...it's an Energizer #523 which gives me 4.5 volts in one cell, larger than an AA but smaller than a C. I've had the same battery in the unit for almost a year now.

aa7qy@primenet.com rhhigh@aztec.asu.edu Ham Radio: AA7QY@KC7Y.AZ.USA.NA

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 17:50:10 1995  
Date: Sun, 08 Jan 1995 15:17:25 EST  
From: RTRC25A@prodigy.com (MR PRESTON J DOUGLAS)  
Message-Id: <013.02671971.RTRC25A@prodigy.com>  
Subject: Re: CMOS superkey II battery power

Hi, Roger: I have the CMOSII on order. How do you connect the 4.5v battery?? What kind of holder or does it have terminals??? Thanks.  
Preston WJ2V

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 10:10:00 1995  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 09:56:30 -0330 (NST)  
From: Robert Gobrick <bgobrick@random.ucs.mun.ca>  
Subject: Re: CMOS Superkeyer  
Message-Id: <Pine.ULT.3.91.950108095439.25485A-1000000@random.ucs.mun.ca>

Roger - what small single cell battery did you use in your CMOS Keyer II on-a-Bencher? I ended up using three aa cells for 4.5 volts using a four aa holder with a dummy cell adapter. So curious what you used.

72 Bob V01DRB/WA6ERB

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 13:29:30 1995  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 09:33:30 -0700 (MST)  
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodski@med.ucalgary.ca>  
Subject: measuring picofarads  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950108092937.21085A@ume>

my fluke series 79 just does not cut it when it comes to caps in the pf dimension. I would appreciate some suggestions as to makes, models, limitations etc. (Cheap would be nice too, but having less aggravation has a price as well!) Thanks

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Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E)      *                VE6GK
Email: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca          * NorCal 519  ARCI 7099  GQRP 8329
Phone 403-271-5123 Fax 403-225-1276      * "Power is no substitute for skill"
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From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 21:39:12 1995  
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 19:30:04 -0500  
Message-Id: <950108193002\_2825056@aol.com>  
Subject: Mich January CW Contest

The Michigan Annual January CW contest is now history. How did everyone do ?  
The bands didn't open much and when they did, it didn't last long. I did  
manage to work the west coast, a few Canadians and HP1AC in Panama City. On  
15m I worked N7MFB, Bill from the NorthWest QRP club. And on 40m KA3WTF Fran  
and AA4XX Paul from Penn., and on 20m V01DRB Bob Gobrnick. I didn't hear  
anyone on 10m or 160m.  
It sure was a quiet contest, very little QRM, I was surprised how few  
contesters were on the bands.

Heres the preliminary stats:

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80m   8 QSO'S   6 S/P/C
40M   29 QSO'S  16 S/P/C
20M   30 QSO'S  22 S/P/C
15M   10 QSO'S   8 S/P/C
=====
      76 QSO'S & 52 S/P/C
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At this rate, the upcoming contests are going to need some incentive to get  
everyone on the air.

I used the QRP Plus and a Gap Titan vertical on 80 thru 10. There was more  
noise than I'd have preferred but at least I got on 80m for the first time in  
a contest. It was less than encouraging. I have a feeling, that I'll be puttin  
g up another antenna in the snow, real soon now. Not looking forward to that  
!

73's, Byron WA8LCZ

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 22:32:07 1995

Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 19:33:52 -0700 (MST)  
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>  
Subject: Re: oner, twoer, twofer?  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950108190921.23412E-100000@ume>

Well Jim, I built it, it was not a pretty sight!  
We had just finished basic electronic theory, ohms law, what the parts do etc as part of the study guide course for the basic exam. What better than to demonstrate what the parts do by building a simple xmtr, eh? I read the instructions before proceeding. Harmonic place parts, dad soldered as board is small (ie one inch square).. double check everything....no solder bridges, polarity of electrolytic, correct transistor placement. Attach key line, power line and antenna output of dummy load.....attach 12 volts with harmonic watching.....hmmmmmm, do I smell something?....CALL 911! smoke, FIRE! Actually, it was just the 22 uf electrolytic that blew up. Take transistors out, vom and transistor tester says they still should work. Resistors ok, other caps ok. Put everything back together (fortunately, with so few parts this does not take long). Try replacing capacitor with 10 uf (two values for same capacitor in the two schematics, thought I would try the other value) Double check connections.....harmonic now playing nintendo.....re attach the juice.....no smoke.....no signal either.....lets try touching a transistor or two....OUCHH!.....dad now knows what to do, he has treated lots of first degree burns before in his day job.

Its a good thing dad just built a norcal sierra that works.....harmonic understands that mistakes happen but why can't OM figure out what went wrong? Anyway, guys, I got to fix this or my budding harmonic will use this piece of information to his advantage for many years to come.

Couple of questions:

What is the obvious error that I cannot figure out?

Are these transistors ztx651, ztx751 and vn10km going to be hard to replace, if so suitable substitutes?

If you ever built one, did you REALLY get 12 turns of wire on a ferrite bead?

Should I stick to more complicated projects, say homebrew moon bounce equipment?

First time in 23 years I needed a fire extinguisher in the ham shack.....hopefully never again. Reminds me of a patient who is retired and builds grandfather clocks for a hobby and extra cash....."Dr. Z, I HIGHLY recommend you start with you second one FIRST!"

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Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E) \* VE6GK  
Email: zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca \* NorCal 519 ARCI 7099 GQRP 8329  
Phone 403-271-5123 Fax 403-225-1276 \* "Power is no substitute for skill"  
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From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Jan 9 00:28:43 1995  
From: JEVERHART@cayman.vf.ge.com  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 23:28:23 -0500 (EST)  
Message-Id: <950108232823.22006d0d@cayman.vf.ge.com>  
Subject: Re: oner, twoer, twofer?

Dr Rick,

I'm not real sure what's up but I experienced a smiliar problem with the oner. If key the rig and you have no vfo hooked up to the npn transistor TR1, its collector can sit at a dc level of several volts. This can try to turn on TR3, making it a dead short circuit to ground. This can cook TR2 and TR3. With an rf signal applied, current through these devices is limited by the ac impedance of the RFC.

BTW, pretty good relacements for TR1 and TR2 are 2N3904 and 2N3906, respectively. TR3 can be replaced by a VN2222L, if you can find them. I think Digi-Key carries all of the above. I'm not sure about shipments to the frozen north, ( sorry, 8-) ) but here in the USA, Dig-Key ships within 24 hours AND takes major credit cards. They can be a real help when you need a part in a hurry.

72/73 and good luck!

Joe E. N2CX

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Sun Jan 8 13:52:58 1995  
From: PeterWK8S@aol.com  
Date: Sun, 8 Jan 1995 11:40:58 -0500  
Message-Id: <950108114057\_2440391@aol.com>  
Subject: Peel off ARCI labels???

Thanks to Mike.Czuhajewski for his response to my question about the 5RP logo for the ARCI stating that he remembers there was once available a "peel off label" depicting the ARCI 5RP logo. I have been an ARCI member for many, many years and must have missed that. Do any ARCI members out there remember where such labels were gotten, from who? If you have any further information about this please email me.

Thanks gang,

PeterWK8S@aol.com